

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 210936Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1761

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BULGARIA

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR HERE, KIRCHSCHLAEGER'S SEPT 13-17 VISIT WAS MORE TO MAINTAIN TRADITION OF EXCHANGING VISITS BY HEAD OF STATE EVERY THREE YEARS THAN TO ACCOMPLISH ANY SPECIFIC PURPOSE. NEVERTHELESS "ABOUT HALF" OF FIFTEEN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WERE SETTLED DURING VISIT AND TRADE PROMOTIONAL WORK WAS DONE BY EACH SIDE. AUSTRIANS CLAIM SUCCESS IN KEEPING SOME CONTENTIOUS ITEMS OUT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED SEPT 17. END SUMMARY

2. AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT RUDOLF KIRCHSCHLAEGER, ACCOMPANIED
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BY HIS WIFE, BY FONMIN ERICH BIELKA-KARLTREAU, AND BY

COMMERCE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER JOSEF STARIBACHER, MADE STATE VISIT TO BULGARIA SEPTEMBER 13-17. FOLLOWING RUN-DOWN ON VISIT WAS PROVIDED BY AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR DIETRICH BUKOWSKI.

3. PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO CONTINUE "TRADITION" OF EXCHANGING VISITS BY HEAD OF STATE APPROXIMATELY EVERY THREE YEARS. THUS JONAS CAME TO SOFIA IN 1970, ZHIVKOV WENT TO VIENNA IN 1973, AND KIRCHSCHLAEGER HAD LONG PLANNED TO VISIT IN 1976. NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN IN TALKS, EXCEPT THAT ZHIVKOV ANNOUNCED FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT OF "ABOUT HALF" OF FIFTEEN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES WHICH AUSTRIANS HAD PRESENTED TO GOB OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. KIRCHSCHLAEGER DID NOT PRESS FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE OTHER OUTSTANDING CASES, LEAVING IT TO BUKOWSKI AND VISITING MINISTERS TO FOLLOW UP OVER COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS.

4. TRADE. IN 1975 BULGARIAN EXPORTS TO AUSTRIA AMOUNTED TO \$24.5 MILLION; IMPORTS FROM AUSTRIA AMOUNTED TO \$68.5 MILLION. BULGARIANS PRESSED FOR HIGHER LEVEL OF AUSTRIAN PURCHASES IN ORDER TO BALANCE TRADE. AUSTRIANS POINTED OUT GOA ALREADY ACCORDS BULGARIA GATT TREATMENT AND TARIFF PREFERENCES AS FOR DEVELOPING NATION. AUSTRIANS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BETTER PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY, AFTER-SALES SERVICE AND SPARE PARTS AVAILABILITY WOULD IMPROVE BULGARIAN MARKET PERFORMANCE, AND THAT MANY OF THE FIRMS REPRESENTING BULGARIA IN AUSTRIA DO NOT SEEM UP TO THEIR JOB. (COMMENT: BUKOWSKI SAID THIS WAS INTENDED AS REMINDER GOA FULLY AWARE GOB PICKS ITS SALES REPS FOR POLITICAL, RATHER THAN COMMERCIAL REASONS, AND THAT SOME OF THE MONEY GENERATED REMAINS IN AUSTRIA TO BE USED FOR CP PURPOSES.) GOB DID NOT ASK FOR ADDITIONAL CREDITS, SINCE MOST OF THE TWO BILLION SCHILLING (\$114.3 MILLION) CREDIT GRANTED LAST YEAR STILL UNUSED.

5. YUGOSLAVIA. BUKOWSKI ACKNOWLEDGED YUGOSLAVIA HAD COME UP DURING DISCUSSIONS, BUT SAID THAT TWO SIDES DID NOT ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE A COMMON STANDPOINT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTEAD EACH NOTED EXISTENCE OF PROBLEMS. ZHIVKOV REMARKED THAT WHILE "MACEDONIAN PROBLEM" DOES NOT EXIST AS FAR AS BULGARIA IS CONCERNED, GOB WILL CONTINUE TO "TURN THE OTHER CHEEK" TO YUGOSLAV AGITATION ON THE SUBJECT.

6. COMMUNIQUE. ASSUME DEPT AND EMBASSY VIENNA HAVE TEXT, AND THEREFORE WILL NOT REPEAT IT HERE. BUKOWSKI

CLAIMED AUSTRIA MANAGED TO KEEP OUT OF COMMUNIQUE
NUMBER OF PET BULGARIAN (AND SOVIET) SLOGANS, PERHAPS
MOST NOTABLY CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS
AND RECOGNITION OF RIGHT OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO THEIR
OWN STATE. ADDITIONALLY, WITH RESPECT TO CYPRUS,
AUSTRIANS OBTAINED REMOVAL OF CALL FOR "NON-ALIGNMENT",
THUS HOLDING FORMULA TO "INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY
AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY"; ELIMINATED LANGUAGE ON
COMMON AND GENERAL END TO NUCLEAR TESTING, PROHIBITION
AND DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS
AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION; "TONED DOWN" LANGUAGE
ON WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE; AND STOPPED
SHORT OF CALLING ON ALL NATIONS TO "MAKE DETENTE AN
IRREVERSIBLE PROCESS." FOR THEIR OWN PART, AUSTRIANS
DROPPED FROM THEIR OWN DRAFT PROPOSAL LANGUAGE ON
INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM BECAUSE GOB
SAID IT HAD NOT YET FORMULATED ITS OWN STAND.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH VISIT LASTED FOUR-AND-A-HALF
DAYS, KIRCHSCHLAEGER AND PARTY SPENT MOST OF THAT
TIME SIGHT-SEEING RATHER THAN IN TALKS. NO PARTICULARLY
GRAND PURPOSES WERE IN VIEW AND NONE WERE ACCOMPLISHED.
GENERAL AUSTRIAN INTENTION WAS TO MAINTAIN CORRECT
POLITICAL RELATIONS AND MARKET FOR AUSTRIAN GOODS.

FROM BULGARIAN POINT OF VIEW, AUSTRIA REMAINS A MARKET
WHICH IT HOPES TO CULTIVATE (ALTHOUGH THUS FAR
WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS) AND A USEFUL LISTENING POST
(AND EXFILTRATION PORT) IN CENTRAL EUROPE.
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